

REMARKS

Claim 7 has been canceled. Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 27, and 28 have been amended. Claims 1, 3-6, and 8-28 are pending in the case. Entrance of the amendments and further examination and reconsideration of pending claims 1, 3-6, and 8-28 are respectfully requested.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 10, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,701,004 to Shykind et al. (hereinafter "Shykind") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,932,377 to Ferguson et al. (hereinafter "Ferguson") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,046,109 to Fujimori et al. (hereinafter "Fujimori"). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shykind in view of Ferguson and Fujimori and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,133,548 to Kenan et al. (hereinafter "Kenan"). Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shykind in view of Ferguson and Fujimori and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,444,480 to Sumita (hereinafter "Sumita"). Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shykind in view of Ferguson and Fujimori and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0181756 to Shibuya et al. Claims 14, 16, 27, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shykind in view of Ferguson and Fujimori and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,091,846 to Lin et al. (hereinafter "Lin"). Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shykind in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,757,645 to Chang et al. (hereinafter "Chang"). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shykind in combination with Chang and further in view of Kenan. Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shykind in combination with Chang and further in view of Sumita. Claims 14, 27, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shykind in combination with Chang and further in view of Lin. Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Shykind in combination with Chang and further in view of Fujimori. Claim 7 has been canceled thereby rendering its rejection moot.

To expedite prosecution, independent claims 1 and 17 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 20 thereby rendering rejections of claims 1 and 17 moot. Claims 3-6, 8-16, 27, and 28 are dependent from newly amended claim 1, which now contains allowable subject matter, thereby rendering rejections of claims 3-6, 8-16, 27, and 28 moot. Claims 18-19 are dependent from newly amended claim 17, which now contains allowable subject matter, thereby rendering rejections of claims 18-19 moot.

Support for the amendments to the claims can be found in the Specification as originally filed, for example, on page 3, lines 8-10, page 4, line 13 to page 6, line 16, page 10, lines 3-4, and page 15, line 26 to page 21, line 23. Accordingly, the amendments to the claims do not present new matter.

In light of the form amendments to the aforesaid claims, each of which now contains allowable subject matter, removal of the § 103 rejections of claims 1, 3-6, 8-19, 27, and 28 is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20-26 were allowed. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's recognition of allowable subject matter, and, as noted above, the allowable subject matter of claim 20 has been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 17.

CONCLUSION

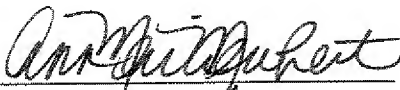
This response constitutes a complete response to all issues raised in the Final Office Action mailed February 5, 2008. In view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, Applicants assert that pending claims 1, 3-6, and 8-28 are in condition for allowance. If the

Examiner has any questions, comments, or suggestions, the undersigned earnestly requests a telephone conference.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 02-0393.

Respectfully submitted,

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